Message Text

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R 071958Z JUN 74 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS INFO ODS/ISA CHJUSMAG ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, GR

SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR GREECE

- 1. DURING JUNE 5 COURTESY CALL ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, GREEK AMBASSADOR PANAYOTACOS INQUIRED WHAT ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY USG ON "LIST OF PRIORITIES OF MILITARY MATERIAL FOR THE GREEK ARMY" PRESENTED TO DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 2, 1974. PANAYOTACOS ARGUED THAT MODERNIZATION OF GREEK ARMED FORCES WAS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE GREECE IS SURROUNDED BY "HOSTILE" COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WHOSE FORCES ARE BETTER EQUIPPED THAN GREECE'S. GOG PREFERS TO DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH U.S. FOR ARMS ACQUISITION AND HOPES THAT ITEMS ON LIST CAN BE ACQUIRED THROUGH FMS CREDITS AND/OR AT "SYMBOLIC PRICES".
- 2. PANAYOTACOS DESCRIBED AS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE EFFORTS OF "LIBERAL" MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO SEEK TO CUT OFF ALL TYPES OF MILITARY AID TO GREECE BY INTRODUCING BILLS AND AMENDMENTS. BY REFERRING TO RECENT REPORTS OF A GREEK-CONFIDENTIAL

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FRENCH ARMS DEAL, PANAYOTACOS CLEARLY INDICATED GOG IS

PREPARED TO OBTAIN CREDITS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IF USG IS NOT RESPONSIVE TO GREEK REQUESTS.

- 3. COUNSELOR NOMIKOS, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE AMBASSADOR, COMMENTED HE HAD IMPRESSION U.S. WAS FOCUSING ONLY ON FIRST PRIORITY ON LIST, I.E., AIRCRAFT. HE STRESSED THAT GOG IS STRONGLY INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING OTHER ITEMS ON LIST AT "SYMBOLIC PRICES".
- 4. IN RESPONSE, STABLER SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF "LIST OF PRIORITIES" AND HE HOPED TO HAVE A REPLY WITHIN A FEW DAYS. KISSINGER

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